

# Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

## One Night

National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Shenandoah National Park  
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



## Graves Mill

Standard - roundtrip

**Level:** Beginner

**Total Length:** 1.2 to 4.2 miles

**Trip Description:** Gently rolling trail following a beautiful river, excellent swimming holes

**Entry:** Graves Mill Boundary

Central District; East side; Route 662

**Exit:** Graves Mill Boundary

Central District; East side; Route 662

**Map(s):** PATC #10 Central District

### Day One

Campsite: Graves Mill Trail - backcountry

0.6 to 2.1 miles

Hike into Shenandoah National Park on Graves Mill Trail 0.5 mile.

Turn right, remaining on Graves Mill Trail. Cross stream, and hike as far as desired.

Find a place to camp. Watch out for poison ivy.

### Day Two

0.6 to 2.1 miles

Return the way you came.

### Notes

You probably won't find pre-existing sites in this area. However, since there is so much level ground, you should be able to find good places to camp. This is an excellent trip to practice pristine site camping techniques as a beginner.

You will be following the Rapidan River upstream from where it leaves Shenandoah National Park for the last time. Fish, swimming holes, and level areas to camp abound. You may extend your hike by continuing to follow the Rapidan River up the Rapidan Fire Road. Rapidan Camp, President Hoover's historic retreat, is about 4.2 miles up the road. (Be sure to turn left shortly after the gate.)

If you don't mind crossing cold, rushing streams, this is a good place in the winter as well.